Natural Rearing Newsletter ©

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FOR BREEDERS THAT CHOOSE TO THINK FOR THEMSELVES

From The Desk Of: MARINA ZACHARIAS

While at another Holistic Vet. Conference (April 8/9--Philadelphia, PA) I was pleasantly surprised to notice that the vast majority attending were first timers (all Vets. or Vet. students). I'm not sure if this was because the "Good Word" is spreading or because the conference provided 16 hours credit for advanced education. At any rate, more Vets were at least exposed to concepts beyond the "traditional" schooling and at least will have heard the word Homeopathy and not be shocked when you tell them you are using some of the remedies.

On the way home I got to thinking (surprise, surprise) that many breeders new to holistic concepts could have difficulty when trying to choose a "Holistic" Vet. suitable for their particular needs. There are so many specialized areas of alternative health care, that it can be confusing. Some of these, such as Homeopathy, Acupuncture, Herbal Medicine (both Chinese and Western), Chiropractic Therapy, are widely practiced. Others, such as Color Therapy, Magnetic Therapy, Glandular Therapy, Metabolic Nutritional Analysis, Immune Augmentative Therapy, are very rare in North America.

To add to the confusion, we find factions within the better known therapies. For example in Homeopathy we find-- "Classical" , "Homotoxicology", "Isopathy" "Nosodotherapy", "Oligo Element", and "Sarcode" along with a few others yet to be named. At the conference it was mentioned that if you put ten Homeopathic practitioners in a locked room, you would end up with a fist fight over the difference in belief on which method was best.

If the "professionals" can't agree, how can we, as breeders, distinguish between what we want and what is being offered ?

The answer lies in self education and "common" sense. There are some general guidelines you can use to ensure that you and your vet are at least on the same wavelength. (1)

To me, "holistic" means drawing on <u>all</u> fields of health care. So don't be afraid to ask a lot of questions, just as you would of any allopathic vet. How long has he/she been practicing holistic medicine? What modalities does he use (i.e. homeopathy, acupuncture, glandulars, etc.) Some may be just starting out and should tell you this. Ask them how much of the practice is holistic (i.e. 10%,50%, over 80%).

Unlike conventional therapy, holistic therapies can offer many approaches to the same problem and all be successful. It is not as cut and dried as type "A" drug for type "B" problem. Personally I like a multi faceted approach. This may mean the use of homeopathy, herbs and glandulars, all at the same time.

There are a few things that should trigger a need for caution on your part. For example, if his nutritional knowledge is based on Hills Science Diet literature, this may not be a good sign. Be very careful of any vet who says "my way is the <u>only</u> way". Unfortunately, as in any field, there are people who are "extremists" and simply choose to ignore any other option of healing that perhaps would be better suited to a particular animal.

If you are not happy with the treatment you are receiving, certainly ask for a second opinion. A good diagnostic is still the key, so consult specialists if need be and work the best from both fields of medicine. Of course most specialists are in conventional practice and will recommend conventional treatment. This is fine. Take the diagnosis and his advice with great appreciation and tell him you will be consulting with Dr.---(your holistic vet) on the matter.

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PUPPY FORMULA--YELLOW ALERT

By now most of you are familiar or at least have heard of the controversy surrounding the synthetic product called "Bovine Growth Hormone" (BGH) and "Bovine Somatotrophin" or BST for short. About a year ago the FDA approved this drug to help cows produce more milk. About 10% more. Aside from the obvious controversy (i.e. there already exists an overproduction of milk in North America; the drug has caused a definite increase of mastitis in cows--which in turn takes more drugs to treat--etc.) I thought I'd throw out a few more facts concerning BST and how it may be directly affecting our puppies and kittens.

Initially many farmers were reluctant to use BST due to the bad consumer publicity it received. Now however, most farmers have jumped on the bandwagon thanks to the marketing efforts of the manufacturer. This becomes absurd when it has been proven that when a herd of cattle is properly managed (by orthodox standards) the milk production can be doubled!!

Synthetic Bovine Growth Hormone causes a noticeable and sustained increase in "insulin-like growth factor-1" or IGF-1 in cows' milk. IGF-1 regulates cell growth, division and differentiation, particularly in infants. **Neither pasteurization nor digestion destroys it and it is easily absorbed.**

A general problem with milk replacers is that they contain little, if any, Omega 3 fatty acids. These are essential for proper development, especially of the retina and visual cortex. This fact alone could certainly explain the problems experienced be certain breeds and juvenile cataract problems when feeding commercial formulas--as reported years ago.

The easiest step is to simply add a few drops of cold pressed Flax Seed Oil (use only Flora, Omega Nutrition or Seymour Organics). It is interesting to note that J. Levy has always included oil in her infant milk formulas.

Here's the kicker!! On a short term study done on mature rats, synthetic BGH caused significant increases in body and liver weights, and bone length, in just 2 weeks

A new study shows that children, with a history of insulin dependent diabetes in the family, are at risk when given cows' milk during the first few months of life. The cells in the cow's milk may damage the insulin cells during this growth phase.

The Journal of the American Medical Association reported back in August of 1990 that "The importance of the increased amounts of IGF-1 in milk from BST treated cows, is uncertain. Whether the small additional amount of IGF-1 in milk from treated cows, has a local effect on the esophagus, stomach, or intestine, is unknown. The gut of a very young infant is an immature organ that can absorb intact proteins".

Neither the manufacturer nor the FDA has tested the long term effects of IGF-1 and treated milk on infants of any species!!!

So who is this great manufacturer ?? Who else but Monsanto. You remember these guys. The same people that brought us Ethoxyquin with the absolute guarantee of safety!!

The shenanigans that went on between Monsanto and certain FDA officials to get this drug approved have been well covered in many publications. Even Congress is taking a close look at this one.

Elsewhere in the world Monsanto has not been successful in obtaining approval for its latest Mega-Buck drug. In Europe (Dec. 15, 1994) not only was the drug banned for at least 7 years, but also any dairy or meat products have been prohibited if BGH has been used.

In Canada, BGH suffered a setback when a Canadian government official revealed on national television that Monsanto representatives attempted to bribe Health Canada with $2.5 million in 1990 if it would approve the drug.

How does this effect your puppies or kittens when you reach for a supplement formula?? We don't know!!! Canned milk or powdered milk has it too!! With the increased use of BST, it won't be long before virtually every dairy product may contain it. Since companies that don't use the hormone are only allowed to advertise this fact along with a statement that there is no difference between milk with it or without it (a Federal Law mandated by FDA), they usually won't bother to label it that way. Thus it takes you, the consumer, to dig and do your own homework to find a BST free product.

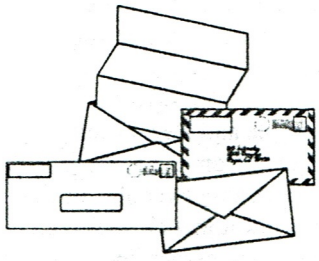
Currently, a safe milk replacement is "Just Born". It's made in Canada and available in the U.S. As the use of BST is still under review in Canada, this could change. If it does, I will let you know immediately.

For now, Goat's milk is probably a safe option, but again check with the dairy--what's "good" for the cows is good for the goats!!

The company that manufactures Esbilac told me that so far, their product has been BST free, but could not guarantee it would remain so even a few months from now.

Unfortunately, we already have so much to concern ourselves with when it comes to rearing puppies and kittens, that this issue has been virtually ignored!!

MAILBOX



Ed Note: Sue Vasick-Croley is Editor of the "Borzoi International" and was kind enough to provide me with permission to use her name and address along with her fascinating letter.

Dateline March 25, 1995--Sue Vasick-Croley
33594 Overland Lane, Solon, OH, 44139

Dear Marina:

Here is "Mody's" story and what made me a true believer in homeopathic remedies.
Last September, Mody suddenly had a difficult time standing up or moving. When he was 22 months old, he'd compressed two vertebrae in his back, and the prognosis was 'no cure'. There seemed to be very little noticeable effect at the time, but over a period of months you could see he had shifted his balance more toward the front to relieve the discomfort. We saw he was starting to move stiffly last Spring '94, and he got a little less active every month. By the first part of September, he could not Rise without effort, his rear shook dramatically if he stood longer than a minute, and he refused to do any sort of exercising at all. X-rays showed arthritis had formed especially around the damaged vertebrae, pressing on crucial areas. Our vet, a very responsible and up to date fellow, gave our 9 year old Borzoi conventional treatment: But, Pred, Robaxin. It did make Mody more comfortable, but he was just existing; his rear was no stronger. We were at a point, eventually, where we knew we would have to put him to rest if something wasn't done.

I'd been studying homeopathic remedies for a couple of years by then, and used them successfully with my other dogs for varying purposes. This time, I decided to go full bore with Mody to see if maybe he could be helped that way. I took Mody off all steroids and medications, and I started him on an aggressive program of BHI Arthritis, Inflammation and Bone. For the first five days he got a full dropper of each every 3 hours until 10 p.m.; since I usually rise at 3 a.m., I felt that a longer period of time wouldn't be harmful. Once I saw a mild improvement within that 5 day period, I backed him off to the same dosage 4 times a day. Within two weeks, he was able to walk about the yard without falling, and could stand up long enough to eat his meals without shaking. He was given nothing else except for his usual complement of Vitamins C and E.

In November, he was down to using the remedies twice a day. There was Dramatic improvement, as he no longer cried when he got up, and could function very well. He seemed happy.

It was at this time that I began Mody on shark cartilage. I did not go the aggressive route of 3 tablets 3x a day as was suggested. Instead, I gave him 3 tablets twice a day, before meals, feeling if I didn't see a continued improvement, I'd up the dose.

Mody is now over 10 years old and still on the homeopathic remedies 2x daily, along with shark cartilage twice daily. You wouldn't believe the change in him. He can stand for 20 minutes for a bath without a single shake in the rear. He trots and sometimes even gallops around the yard. He is alert, he's happy, he's again King of the Dogs, and he plays and leaps in the air like he was young again. I don't allow him to overdo things as he is, after all, old for a Borzoi. But he is 200x more active than he was just seven months ago, and certainly appears a lot healthier. I attribute this wonderful change strictly to the homeopathic remedies and shark cartilage; Mody's dramatic change has certainly made a believer out of both my husband and me.

For the record, all my dogs are fed as naturally as possible; they get Wysong dog food mixed in with fresh meat (usually lamb), vegetables and fat-free noodles. The diet varies from day to day and sure the guys get 'scraps' as well. I raised my litter of Borzoi pups on a natural-based diet, and have been extremely satisfied with the results. The alertness, condition and magnificent coats on my dogs are recognized by many.

Thanks for listening!

Wow! This letter sent shivers down my back when I first read it. Thanks Sue, for sharing such a wonderful experience!!

Dateline March 14, 1995--California
Dear Marina:

First of all, let me say that I look forward to the arrival of your newsletter and the eye opening articles in each issue. The article on Shark Cartilage in the March '95 issue was very helpful and informative. As you know, I recently started my 12 year old Doberman on the cartilage supplement after she was diagnosed with cancer. The article stimulated me to write. I can testify to the fact that the dog feels a lot better. Just as the dog owners in that study, I have noticed a dramatic improvement in my dog's ability and desire to jump on and off the sofa and bed, and an increase in her initiation of play sessions. She has not been this playful in years! Also, I have not had any more problems with appetite. I have come to the conclusion that, even if the tumor continues to grow, I am doing something that helps her feel better. Subsequently, I feel better too. I plan to keep her on the supplement for a few more months and then x-ray. I will update you at that time.

It's always nice to have "breeder" confirmation of scientific study results.

Dateline April 14, 1995--Oregon
(Ed. Note: This case involved a dog with both a thyroid problem and a chronic yeast infection).

Dear Marina:

"W----" has been using Daily Health Tablets, Grass & Weed, Intenzyme Forte, Traumeel Liquid, Natural Herbal Earwash, Thytrophin and of course Seaweed Mineral Food. She is doing Great!!! I started her on the Thytrophin and for two weeks kept her on both the Thytrophin and the synthetic. Week three I reduced her to 1.5 of synthetic in addition to Thytrophin. Week four = 1 synthetic, Week five = 1/2 synthetic and today starts Week six = 0 synthetic. As I have been weaning her off of the synthetic I haven't noticed any signs that she is missing the synthetic at all. Before, when I tried to reduce the synthetic, prior to using the Thytrophin, I was rewarded by coming home from work and finding her with huge, bloody scratch marks on her stomach. I am pleased that this seems to be working. I will keep you posted.

Also, I took her to my vet last week to have her nails done. I had the vet swab her ears. Guess what? NO YEAST!!! I have been fighting yeast infections in her ears for two years, trying every product on the market (Tressaderm, Oti-cleanse, Panalog, etc.) without the quick, decisive results that I have seen with the combination of Traumeel Liquid & the Herbal Earwash. Thank you. I was ecstatic and my vet was baffled as to what happened to the yeast. She asked me what I was doing differently. I told her. My vet was very open minded to your products and even recommended them to one of her patients that has the ear yeast problem. She was very eager to hear how "W----" does with the Thytrophin. She was trained in Holland and is not closed minded like most American trained vets.

"W----" is definitely thriving. She has filled out in the body department and her coat is wonderful. She looks like a totally different dog. I think she is gaining more nutrition out of her food now than she was before. She doesn't seem to defecate as often or as much as before I started your products.

Thank you again! One of these days I will send you a photo! Before and After...

As I've pointed out before, when synthetic thyroid medication is used, the thyroid has a tendency to simply shut down. It's almost like it says "O.K., if you're going to do the work--no need for me to function." Natural therapies (and there are several) on the other hand, attempt to stimulate the thyroid and restore it to its natural function.

With respect to the Ear Yeast problem, you may want to advise your vet that if the remedies you used don't seem to cure the problem, try the Chinese Herbal combination called "Picrorrhiza". I've had wonderful results from this when all else has failed. (4)

HELPFUL HINTS

With flea season upon us, many people wonder what they can do inside the house, that is natural, safe, and effective.

A simple and elegant solution is to buy some regular old Borax from the grocery store and sprinkle it lightly and thoroughly over all carpeted areas. Use a push broom, work it in well so that all the Borax is spread deep into the carpet fibers--where the fleas are. If there is any excess left on top of the fibers, use a carpet sweeper or lightly vacuum the area to remove the surplus. This will prevent any risk of caking.

The Borax actually dehydrates the fleas' larvae and eggs, breaking the hatching cycle. As long as the carpets are not shampooed, this will control the fleas for a year or longer. There are companies (for example "Fleabusters") that use a similar process.

This is a perfectly safe, non-chemical method of protecting all in the household from these varmits.

FOLLOW UP--HEARTWORM MEDICATION

In Issue #3, we wrote about "Ivermectin" and Dr. Jean Dodds warning of the problems that have been linked to it. We mentioned Heartguard as a brand name that utilizes this as an ingredient in its' medication. Since then, many of you have asked about "Interceptor" (another brand of monthly heartworm medication) and if the same warning applies.

I contacted Dr. Dodds to clarify this issue and she informed me that it applies to all forms of monthly heartworm medication. She again re-iterated that only the 'daily' form (for example Filirabits) should be used.

I must apologize for any possible misunderstanding in the article. I certainly did not mean to imply that no protection should be used. Heartworm is a deadly infestation and for those in high risk areas, can be devastating if nothing is used.

I've also been bombarded with requests for more information on the homeopathic form of prevention. Yes, there is a relatively new homeopathic "nosode" for heartworm. This may be suitable for those of us with little or no risk, but when I checked with several Holistic Vets across the country, their opinion is that this particular nosode has not been sufficiently proven over time in areas where heartworm is prevalent.

Please be sure to **check with your holistic vet** for the area you are in. Question him on the effectiveness of whatever form of protection he is recommending. You must have information that applies to your local area before you can decide for yourself if this is the course of action you choose to follow.

EMERGENCY REMEDIES

As summertime fast approaches, it means for most of us, an increase in travel. This could lead to a variety of troubles for the animals. So here are a few more good remedies to have on hand at all times. (Please remember to refer to issues #1-#3 in this section for other important remedies).

A major problem that can occur during travel is a simple gastro-intestinal upset. This can happen for a variety of reasons such as: different water or food; change in routine of feeding times; too much rich food (i.e. liver) during the shows; and general stress. The latter is probably the most important part of the problem.

Animals are creatures of habit and for some, the slightest changes can cause distress. As mentioned in Issue #3 under the Bach Flower Remedies, emotions can alter our physical well being. So, treatment, in order to be effective, should be two-fold--Emotional and Physical.

The first physical symptom usually seen in gastro-intestinal upsets, is diarrhea. It is a fair and safe assumption that an animal who is away from home and on the road, who exhibits signs of diarrhea, is under some form of stress.

As people handle stress in their own way, so do the animals. For example, you may have a dog who is over excited about everything, or the other extreme, a dog who is overly quiet, or maybe a cat that seems to worry about everything.

Rescue Remedy, or under its' new name Calming Essence, as discussed previously, can be a lifesaver. If you know specifically how your animal might react you might try the following:
--Fear/Stress Remedy for general nerves and stress. Especially good for specific or vague fears, over reactions, panic, Etc.
--For the animal who is always up and just can't settle, try Vervain.
--For the chronic worrier, Red Chestnut is very good.
--Agrimony is excellent for the animal that keeps his emotions inward.

To treat the physical symptoms of diarrhea we are fortunate to have homeopathic remedies that work effectively and quickly. BHI Diarrhea is an obvious choice. This could be combined with BHI Intestine or if accompanied by great digestive disturbances in the stomach, add BHI Stomach and/or BHI Nausea.

Information provided is for educational purposes only and should not be construed as veterinary advise. Professional help should always be sought.

For those who prefer to use 'single' remedies, I will list only a few, due to space limitations.

--If the diarrhea was caused by too much rich food, try Nux Vomica 30c (I find this very helpful for me if I've overindulged--especially eating in restaurants).

--For the animal who is restless, with watery stools that seem worse in the evening, think of Arsenicum Album 30c.

--If the diarrhea is a "gusher" or shoots out a distance and is watery (may contain mucus) think of Podophyllum 30c.

For those of you who own breeds of dogs that are prone to bloat: travel, stress, and digestive disturbances can significantly increase the risk of bloat or torsion.

I would strongly recommend that you have the following remedies on hand at all times:

--Nux Moshata 30c (Nutmeg). This is an outstanding remedy that helps alleviate the gas and swelling of the abdomen. It can be used alone or with BHI Intestine and BHI Stomach.

--Rescue Remedy (Calming Essence) should be given in all cases to alleviate shock and fear (good for the person too!!).

If these remedies are given early enough and frequently (i.e. every 10 min.) many cases can actually be stopped. I would administer these remedies no matter what stage the animal is in. I have heard back from many breeders who have actually used the remedies and either stopped the bloat in progress, or saved the dog's life while waiting for surgery (the body was able to eliminate gas and buy much needed time in getting to surgery.

Q. Can I give several homeopathic remedies together at the same time?

A. Yes. Homeopathic remedies, unlike drugs, can be given together, quite safely.

A BLOOD BANK FOR ANIMALS

The practice of veterinary transfusion medicine has undergone a tremendous growth in the last five years. Until now, animal blood components have not been readily available. Consequently, many vets may not be familiar with their use.

Dr. Jean Dodds has set up a lab service called "HEMOPET". Its' purpose is twofold. Firstly it is a Rescue service for racing Greyhounds. Secondly, those dogs that pass rigorous blood screening tests, are kept for a short time as 'blood donors'. During their stay they are, of course, kept in the most gracious of conditions with an enriched environment; exercise' and personal attention. They are then adopted out to good homes.

Screening for blood-borne diseases is crucial and all are tested for Brucellosis, Lyme disease, Heartworm, Valley Fever, and many others.

Hemopet provides a variety of blood donor products, including canine whole blood and canine fresh frozen plasma, available to any veterinarian across the country.

Currently, many vets do not perform transfusions due to the high costs of individual collection and screening. Where community donors are available, most are screened only once a year, leaving the safety of the blood, in question.

Most owners are less concerned with costs when compared to the safety and efficacy of the transfusion. Many hospital stays can be shortened when receiving a blood component, so the actual overall cost can also be justified.

Fresh Frozen Plasma is one of the most important products Hemopet produces and has a variety of applications. It can be used to control serious bleeding diseases such as hemophilia and Von Willebrands disease. It is generally indicated for the replacement of Albumin, globulins, electrolytes and other nutrients of plasma.

It has been essential for helping orphaned puppies or kittens and for those neonates who received only a minimal amount of colostrum. Given within the first 48 hours, it provides the neonate with the necessary immunity it needs to survive. The plasma is then repeated at about 10 days and again at 3 to 4 weeks of age. (Transfusions would be given more often for sick neonates).

One of the most important uses of fresh frozen plasma is in the exposure to acute viral diseases such as Parvovirus. Dr. Dodds reported at the American Holistic Vet. Medical Association Conference, that a drastic reduction id death from Parvo is seen when the plasma is used. A clinic in Winnipeg has reported 100% recoveries and shorter hospitals stays on all Parvo cases, while using the plasma.

(Ed. note: This fact alone was worth reading this section)

Transfusions of fresh frozen plasma also happens to be helpful in cases of acute pancreatitus and in burn patients, according to Dr. Dodds.

PLEASE pass along this information to <u>your</u> vet so he/she may contact Dr. Dodds for further information and answer any questions they may have. You may not only save your own animals but others as well.

Dr. Jean Dodds, DVM, can be reached at:

HEMOPET, 17672-A Cowan, Suite 300,
Irvine CA, 92714
Phone: (714)-252-8455

COULD IT BE FORMALDEHYDE ??

Formaldehyde shows up in the most unexpected places and can cause no end of seemingly 'mysterious' problems up to and including death.

Here are two horror stories from breeders that really bring home the point.

The first breeder lost her companion after the dog had a severe allergic reaction from chewing on a 'pig ear'. The breeder had the remains of the pig ear analyzed and it turns out it was soaked in Formaldehyde !! One of her puppy buyers also experienced a similar reaction when the puppy was fed a pig ear that she believed to be from a clean source of supply. Luckily the puppy lived.

The second breeder told me of a bitter experience from a seemingly innocent, normal action, that we all could fall victim to--if not aware of the danger.

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This lady purchased a new rug for her dogs' crate, put it in with her dog and left. Upon her return she was horrified at the sight. The dog had chewed and eaten a major portion of the rug. She rushed him to the vet but a short time later the dog died. Cause--Formaldehyde poisoning !!

A word to the wise. Anytime you buy a new crate rug, fake fur toys, plush bedding, etc., **make sure to wash them** in the machine before using them. Multiple washings are best. **It is important to add Baking Soda to the wash !!** This will help neutralize any hidden chemicals that may be lingering in the fibers.

Our animals are exposed to so many toxins in the environment that anytime we can eliminate even one possible source it's worth the effort.

Formaldehyde is also the culprit in many chronic immune related conditions through simple inhalation. It doesn't have to be ingested to cause suffering. If you are seeing a sudden adverse reaction in your animals after installing new carpets in the house this could very well be the cause. Again, shampooing the carpets a few times, with added Baking Soda could bring relief.

You know that nice clean, fresh aroma you get when you first open a new set of sheets or bedding ? Know what causes it ? You guessed it --Formaldehyde !

There is one other place this stuff is commonly found that is truly unexpected by many of us. It is used as a preservative in many **vaccines.**

VACCINATIONS--PART 1

As I start to write this I must admit that it is probably one of the most controversial subjects I will ever have to tackle. By now most of you know my own decision was made many years ago to go with a natural form of immunization rather than with the more generally accepted vaccination. But that is only part of a total program that I follow to give me the confidence that the immune system of my dogs is working at it's optimum.

This newsletter is dedicated to providing factual information and background for breeders to become sufficiently informed to make their own decisions. Therefore I will do my best not to allow my personal bias to enter this series of articles and try to bring you facts from both sides of the issue.

You may be asking yourself what all the fuss is about. Plainly stated, **there is no such thing as a 100% effective form of protection against disease !!**

Putting it simply, all animals have a unique means of survival with the ability of the body to recognize foreign substances (proteins) and eliminate them. This is maintained by the production of antibodies by certain of their blood cells, often in response to infections. The body thus gains "immunity" to the infection--if it survives.

Today, immunologists recognize that the 'immune response' is a very complicated process involving many systems in the body. These systems work in specific ways and are inter-dependent. The 'immune response' has been loosely classified into two types--"specific" and "non-specific".

The 'non-specific' response appears to be the first line of defense and is usually invoked when catching diseases naturally. This primary response involves natural substances and natural micro-organisms available throughout the entire body. They are able to destroy unwanted micro-organisms and toxins.

The 'specific' response involves blood antibodies that are produced in response to certain infections. They are effective only against a particular infective agent.

A vaccine is aimed at stimulating this 'specific' antibody response. The injection of a very large dose of the disease agent is used (compared to that obtained through natural infection) without regard to the varying reaction of different individuals. It is hoped that antibodies to these agents are produced, that will protect against future infection, leaving the individual with as few symptoms as possible. It is hoped that the benefits to be gained will outweigh the risks.

It would seem then, that the allopathic approach to immunization concentrates only on the "specific" .

Recent research however, suggests that this secondary response occurs only when the primary response has been inadequate (i.e. only when sufficient micro-organisms have entered the body and got past the body's initial line of defense).

The holistic view regards disease as a function of the total state of health in the body, and concentrates its efforts on the first line of defense--the "non-specific" response.

The naturopathic view is that the micro-organism is never wholly responsible for disease. Many individuals with micro-organisms present all the time only succumb to disease when their state deteriorates through: overwork, toxins, poor nutrition, chemical changes from mental and emotional stress, etc.

Similarly, if the state of the body changes for the better (even if the micro-organisms are still present), the disease state can be cured.

This basic division in the theory of immunization is widely misunderstood by the vast majority of people.

There is no doubt that countless millions of lives have been saved (both human and animal) by mankind's attempt to stave off and somehow prevent the onset of a variety of debilitating or deadly diseases. To gain some understanding of how our present protocols arose, we need to know a little about how they got started.

Prior to Samuel Hahnemanns' time (1755 to 1843) there existed many "generally accepted" medical practices (such as bloodletting) that we ridicule to-day. But remember at that time there were no microscopes as we know them, nor any of the modern day instruments that we now take for granted. Hahnemann (the Father of Homeopathy) postulated a theory of chronic diseases that was unheard of in his time. "Like cures like". He went on to experimentally "prove" that his minute doses of various substances could cure and prevent certain sicknesses in people by initiating the very symptoms (in mild form) they sought to cure. More on this later.

It was however, Edward Jenner of England that is credited with the process of 'vaccination'. At the beginning of the 19th Century he noticed that milkmaids who had cowpox often developed an immunity to smallpox, a notorious killer in Europe at that time.

By taking pus from blisters on their hands, placing it on the patients skin and scratching it in, the body produced a similar blister to the milkmaid's cowpox, but the patient would not come down with the dreaded smallpox. Jenner became world famous with his process of vaccination.

Of course this was before the days of FDA, double blind studies, etc. Imagine--both Hahnemann and Jenner found effective ways to help people and just went out and did it !! What a Concept !!

The transmission of infectious diseases was still a great mystery, until the work of Louis Pasteur in France during the second half of the 19th century. At the time, his theories were also ridiculed by the 'accepted' medical community. He postulated that 'disease' was caused by micro-organisms too small to see! Everybody "knew" that "modern" science thought this just plain foolishness. "If you can't see, feel it, measure it, it just don't exist".

Bacteria could sometimes be seen under a crude microscope with special staining, but a virus (which is far smaller) could only be seen with an electron microscope--which came around 1950. A virus is so tiny that it cannot have an independent life outside its host, but is obliged to invade the host's cells and use the host's proteins to replicate itself.

Turning our spotlight to our own country, we find that as we moved into the beginning of the 20th Century, both "homeopathic" and "allopathic" medicine were practiced side by side.

Gradually the tide swung towards the allopathic conventions and these were finally cemented into our society with the formation of the American Medical Association.

To defend the right to practice homeopathy in this country, a homeopath named Dr. Clayton founded the FDA. That's right folks!! The FDA was originally developed in America (1938) as an institution to protect homeopathy!! It was written into the law of America, and written on the first page of the FDA Act about the existence of the Homeopathic Pharmacopeia of the United States, and how a homeopathic pharmaceutical can be used with a patient in America.

My, how times do change!! It seems that the new golden rule is "Thems' that have the Gold make the rules".

Today in North America, conventional medicine recognizes and accepts, only allopathic "vaccination" as the "legal" method of immunization.

The homeopathic form of immunization--called a "Nosode", has not as yet, received acceptance under the law, as a "safe" alternative to the allopathic injection method. Despite 200 years of worldwide usage, and recent scientific proof that homeopathy is a viable alternative, the powers that be refuse to acknowledge its' efficacy. After all, everybody "knows" that "If you can't see, feel it, measure it, it just don't exist".

As the power of the large pharmaceutical companies grew (along with their wealth), there has been an ongoing battle to discredit and if possible, totally deny an individuals right to choose any other form of health care.

Herbal, homeopathic, nutritional, etc. all have come under attack for their removal from the American marketplace.

For example, on September 1, 1994, a petition signed by 42 self styled "quackbusters", was filed with the FDA which basically demanded the removal of all homeopathic remedies.

It is one thing to be a skeptic. It is another thing to attempt to impose your narrow vision of the world on everyone else. It's a war out there, and many Americans don't even know it's going on.

In coming issues we will be getting into the meat and potatoes of this complex subject.